LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sliding contact seal structure, comprising: ~~used in various machines having~~

a shaft member having a sliding contact surface that comes into contact with a seal member and relatively slides with respect to the seal member, wherein the sliding contact surface is defined to have a surface energy of ~~the shaft member is~~ 50 dyne/cm or less for contact with the seal member ~~on a sliding contact surface of the shaft member~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A sliding contact seal structure according to claim 1, ~~comprising a combination of the seal member and the shaft member, and~~ wherein the seal member has a sliding contact surface which is defined to have a surface energy and slidingly contacts the sliding contact surface of the shaft member, and wherein a sum of ~~a surface~~ the surface energy of the seal member and the surface energy of the shaft member ~~being~~ is 95 dyne/cm or less ~~on a sliding contact surface of the seal member and the sliding contact surface of the shaft member~~.

Claim 3 (new): A sliding contact seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the sliding contact surface of the shaft member comprises a film forming material having a surface energy of 50 dyne/cm or less, the film forming material formed by any one of chemical deposition, plasma CVD, physical vapor deposition, vacuum deposition, and sputtering.